Recent Cases of Detention and Deportation Without Due Process in the U.S.

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Notable Cases

1. **Mahmoud Khalil – Columbia University Graduate Student**
   Mahmoud Khalil, a Syrian-born Palestinian and lawful U.S. resident, was arrested by ICE in March 2025 after participating in pro-Palestinian protests at Columbia University. The government argued that his activism threatened U.S. foreign policy interests. Despite no criminal charges, an immigration judge ordered his deportation. Legal appeals are ongoing.
   Sources: New York Post, The Times (UK)

2. **Kilmar Abrego Garcia – Maryland Resident**
   Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran national, was mistakenly deported in March 2025 despite a 2019 court order protecting him. A federal judge deemed the deportation "wholly lawless," but the government has not reversed it.
   Source: Wikipedia

3. **Venezuelan Asylum Seekers – Mass Deportations**
   In March 2025, the U.S. deported over 130 Venezuelan asylum seekers to El Salvador without individual hearings. Many were misidentified as gang members. The Alien Enemies Act of 1798 was invoked. Among them was Andry José Hernández Romero, a gay makeup artist deported due to misunderstood tattoos.
   Source: Wikipedia

4. **Rümeysa Öztürk – Tufts University Student**
   Turkish student Rümeysa Öztürk was detained after co-authoring an article critical of Israeli actions in Gaza. She was transported across multiple states without clear charges. A federal judge temporarily halted her deportation.
   Source: Wikipedia

5. **Alireza Doroudi – University of Alabama Ph.D. Student**
   Iranian Ph.D. student Alireza Doroudi was detained by ICE in March 2025. Authorities cited vague national security concerns without evidence. His case is seen as lacking due process.
   Source: Wikipedia

These actions are unacceptable, as characterized from legal, ethical, political, and historical perspectives. (See Descriptions of these Actions on the next page.)

Descriptions of these Actions

Legal Descriptions

- **Due Process Violations**: Potential breaches of the 5th and 14th Amendments, which protect against deprivation of liberty without legal procedure.
- **Administrative Overreach**: Government agencies may have acted beyond their legal authority, especially when court orders were ignored.
- **Abuse of National Security Powers**: Use of vague or outdated statutes (e.g., the Alien Enemies Act) to bypass constitutional safeguards.

Ethical Descriptions

- **Authoritarian Behavior**: State actions used to suppress dissent resemble tactics of authoritarian regimes.
- **Human Rights Violations**: Violations of international standards, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and refugee protections.
- **Discriminatory Enforcement**: Targeting based on nationality, political beliefs, or LGBTQ+ status can reflect systemic bias.

Political Descriptions

- **Political Repression**: Punishing individuals for political speech or activism, especially criticism of government policies or allies.
- **Chilling Effect on Dissent**: These cases may deter lawful protest and speech due to fear of retaliation.
- **Weaponization of Immigration Law**: Immigration enforcement used to suppress political opposition or marginalized voices.

Historical and Comparative Descriptions

- **McCarthyism 2.0**: Echoes of Cold War-era blacklisting and punishment based on unsubstantiated accusations.
- **Internment Echoes**: Comparisons with Japanese-American internment during WWII, later acknowledged as unjust and discriminatory.
- **Selective Justice**: The inconsistent application of legal standards suggests politically motivated enforcement.